PORTLAND FIRE WEATHER – 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS FOR AREA ONE (COASTAL STRIP ZONES)

This area is comprised of zones 601 and 612. RAWS used to represent the area include:

Cedar Creek, Cannibal Mountain, Goodwin Peak, Huckleberry, and Tillamook.

	TEMPERATURE		RELATIVE HUMIDITY				FUELS		PRECIPITATION			LTG
			3 OR MORE RAWS MEET CRITERIA FOR 2 HOURS						MEDIAN VALUES			
DATE	AVE MAX	AVE MIN	AVE MIN	DAYS <26%	AVE RECOVERY	NIGHTS <61%	ERC	100 HR	DAYS ≥ .01	DAYS ≥ .10	DAYS ≥ 0.25	DAYS
May 1-10	60.1	45.5	58.6	0	91.4	2	4.4	15.7	6	3	1	0
11- 20	57.7	44.9	70.7	0	97.6	0	3.9	19.6	4	2	0	1
21- 31	58.7	46.7	66.3	0	88.0	1	2.3	21.5	10	6	5	0
June 1-10	**60.1**	**47.3**	**64.4**	**0**	**89.5**	**0**	**1.2**	**23.7**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**0**
11-20	**67.7**	**50.2**	**51.9**	**2**	**82.4**	**4**	**3.6**	**17.2**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**2**
21-30	**66.1**	**51.6**	**66.8**	**0**	**90.6**	**0**	**8.8**	**14.2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
July 1-10	66.3	49.2	64.7	0	96.5	0	13.0	16.1	2	0	0	0
11-20	72.6	54.0	59.1	0	94.2	0	19.5	14.8	1	0	0	1
21-31	74.1	55.8	57.1	0	90.0	2	27.5	13.1	0	0	0	0
Aug 1-10	**71.6**	**54.8**	**62.6**	**0**	**91.1**	**1**	**22.0**	**16.2**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**0**
11-20	**73.4**	**57.3**	**59.0**	**0**	**85.1**	**2**	**29.6**	**12.9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
21-31	**68.0**	**56.2**	**75.3**	**0**	**93.9**	**1**	**7.5**	**22.8**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**1**
Sept 1-10	67.5	52.3	65.7	0	94.0	0	6.8	18.3	2	2	1	1
11-20	61.3	49.8	80.6	0	99.7	0	1.9	25.1	9	7	7	3
21-30	64.4	49.4	69.3	0	96.7	0	1.4	21.6	0	0	0	0
Oct 1-10	**66.5**	**50.6**	**65.0**	**0**	**94.1**	**0**	**4.1**	**19.8**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**
11-20	**69.2**	**51.1**	**60.0**	**0**	**91.8**	**0**	**5.0**	**19.3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**
AVE/TOT.	**66.2**	**51.0**	**64.5**	**2**	**92.2**	**13**	**9.6**	**18.3**	**55**	**36**	**29**	**13**
2003	66.5	49.9	58.9	5	88.6	22	31.4	13.8	32	19	14	14
2002	65.5	49.4	63.6	5	92.0	23	20.3	15.9	37	20	10	3
2001	66.0	47.8	59.3	7	89.8	12	NA	NA	46	30	15	4
2000	69	51	57	11	89	16	NA	NA	32	15	8	5
1999	68	50	60	10	89	19	NA	NA	43	14	4	3
1998	72	53	58	2	87	12	NA	NA	25	11	6	4
1997	70	53	60	1	90	10	NA	NA	43	30	24	10

DRY SPELL							
2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
53 DAYS	105 DAYS	35 DAYS	22 DAYS	44 DAYS	33 DAYS	47 DAYS	40 DAYS

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW: The 2004 season started wet, and ended much sooner than the past few years. There were significant wet spells in late May/early June and also late August and mid-September. The "dry spell" (median precipitation of less than one-tenth of an inch) was just 53 days, compared to 105 days last year. Note the number of days with median precipitation of 0.25 inches or more. There were 29 such days this year, the most in the past eight years. The wet year of 1997 had 24 days.

Lightning frequency was similar to 2003. There were 14 days of lightning this season, compared to 13 last year. About one-half of the lightning days occurred in September and October, during a rather wet period.

TEMPERATURE: The seasonal average (66.2 degrees) was similar to the past three years. The warmest 10-day period occurred at the end of July (74.1 degrees). High temperatures on July 23rd were in the lower to middle 90s. Cannibal hit 96, Cedar Creek 94, Goodwin Peak 93, and Huckleberry 92. Another warm period took place in mid-June. This was the only time the area experienced "critical daytime humidity". Tillamook and Cannibal recorded 92 degrees on June 17th.

HUMIDITY: There were only two "critical daytime humidity" days during the season. Critical daytime humidity was defined as at least three stations recording 25 percent or less humidity for at least two hours on any given day. There were 13 "critical humidity nights", about one-half the total of 2002 and 2003. There were four such nights in mid-June. The 10-night average was 82.4 percent.

PRECIPITATION: The 2004 season had three distinct wet periods. The first was in late May and early June, the second occurred in late August, and the third took place in mid-September. The period August 21-31 had six days when at least half the RAWS recorded precipitation. On all six days, the median precipitation was over 0.25 inches.

On June 6th Tillamook had 1.87 inches of rain while Cedar Creek received 1.53 inches. Cedar Creek had 7.53 inches of rain from August 23rd to August 26th. A total of 3.11 inches fell on the 24th. Huckleberry picked up 4.44 inches from August 21st through the 25th. Another deluge occurred on September 18th. Tillamook had 2.84 inches and Goodwin Peak 2.78 inches.

FUELS: The 2004 season average ERC was much lower than previous years (9.6 this season compared to 31.4 last year). The peak values (near 30) occurred in late July and mid-August. ERC values last year were in the 40s from late July through early September. There were very few days of critical ERC (40 or higher). The area reached 40 on July 28th and August 20th. Critical 100-hr fuel moisture values (12 or less) did not occur in 2004. The lowest 10-day average was 12.9 in mid-August. The 100-hour fuel moisture values were in the middle teens to middle 20s in the first third of the season, fell into the lower to middle teens in the middle third, then rose in the 20 to 25 range during the final third.

PORTLAND FIRE WEATHER – 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS FOR AREA TWO (COAST RANGE)

This area is comprised of zones 602 and 603. RAWS used to represent the area include:

South Fork, Miller, Rye Mountain, Rockhouse1, Wilkinson Ridge, Village Creek, High Point, Clay Creek, and Abernathy Mountain.

	TEMPERATURE		RELATIVE HUMIDITY				FUELS		PRECIPITATION			LTG
			4 OR MORE RAWS MEET CRITERIA FOR 2 HOURS						MEDIAN VALUES			
DATE	AVE MAX	AVE MIN	AVE MIN	DAYS <26%	AVE RECOVERY	NIGHTS <61%	ERC	100 HR	DAYS ≥ .01	DAYS ≥ .10	DAYS ≥ 0.25	DAYS
May 1-10	63.3	44.3	54.2	1	92.7	2	8.8	14.7	5	1	1	2
11- 20	60.6	44.3	64.8	0	98.4	0	9.4	17.9	4	1	0	2
21- 31	61.3	46.2	69.4	0	96.5	1	11.2	18.5	8	5	2	3
June 1-10	**63.7**	**46.5**	**66.1**	**0**	**98.0**	**0**	**7.5**	**20.3**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**2**
11-20	**72.7**	**49.7**	**44.2**	**4**	**83.3**	**4**	**10.9**	**15.2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
21-30	**74.6**	**51.3**	**51.5**	**0**	**92.4**	**0**	**18.3**	**12.7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
July 1-10	74.2	49.4	49.8	0	96.1	0	25.1	13.2	0	0	0	0
11-20	80.2	53.7	43.9	0	94.0	0	31.6	12.7	0	0	0	1
21-31	84.9	55.8	38.8	2	89.1	2	39.7	11.5	0	0	0	0
Aug 1-10	**79.3**	**54.4**	**49.0**	**1**	**91.3**	**1**	**33.7**	**13.9**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**
11-20	**85.6**	**57.1**	**39.6**	**0**	**87.4**	**2**	**40.5**	**11.7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
21-31	**72.2**	**55.8**	**64.3**	**0**	**94.6**	**1**	**16.2**	**19.9**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**1**
Sept 1-10	71.6	52.6	54.9	0	93.8	0	16.7	16.0	2	1	0	1
11-20	62.3	48.5	72.6	0	98.8	0	7.5	22.3	9	8	5	3
21-30	68.8	49.3	59.6	0	96.6	0	6.2	19.5	0	0	0	0
Oct 1-10	**71.0**	**50.3**	**52.4**	**0**	**93.0**	**1**	**12.2**	**17.5**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**
11-20	**70.0**	**51.5**	**57.5**	**0**	**91.3**	**0**	**8.4**	**19.8**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
AVE/TOT.	**71.5**	**50.6**	**54.9**	**8**	**93.4**	**14**	**17.9**	**16.3**	**45**	**29**	**16**	**20**
2003	73.0	50.4	48.5	16	88.2	13	33.7	13.7	25	15	7	14
2002	71.9	48.7	48.8	6	90.3	22	29.2	13.9	34	17	7	5
2001	75.1	48.7	44.2	19	93.3	12	NA	NA	29	17	8	2
2000	73	51	55	7	90	12	NA	NA	33	11	4	4
1999	72	51	53	5	90	12	NA	NA	33	11	4	3
1998	76	53	54	0	92	6	NA	NA	22	6	3	2
1997	74	53	57	2	93	4	NA	NA	36	26	14	6

DRY SPELL							
2004	**2003**	**2002**	**2001**	**2000**	**1999**	**1998**	**1997**
53 DAYS	**80 DAYS**	**78 DAYS**	**32 DAYS**	**57 DAYS**	**33 DAYS**	**83 DAYS**	**40 DAYS**

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW: This area exhibited the same characteristics as the coastal strip area. The 2004 season was rather wet in late May and early June, dried out in July and early August, then ended in late August due to another wet period. The "dry spell" was 53 days, much less than the 80 days of 2003. There were more days with measurable precipitation (median values) this season compared to the past eight years. The average high temperature was the coolest since at least 1997. The average ERC value (17.9) was almost half the value of 2003 (33.7).

Lightning frequency was higher compared to previous years. There were 20 days of lightning this season. However, most of the days occurred in May and June, during periods of cold upper level lows.

TEMPERATURE: The warmest 10-day period occurred in mid-August (85.6 degrees). Another warm spell occurred July 21-31, with an average high of 84.9 degrees. Highs on July 23rd were in the 90s to 105. Wilkinson RAWS hit 105, Village Creek 103, and Miller 99. Village Creek hit 100 on the 24th. It is interesting to note that the 10-day average high of 85.6 (mid-August) was followed by a 10-day average of 72.2 degrees. The 10-day average high in mid-September was just 62.3 degrees.

HUMIDITY: There were eight "critical daytime humidity" days during the season. Critical daytime humidity was defined as at least four stations recording 25 percent or less humidity for at least two hours on any given day. Rye Mountain recorded 15 percent on June 16th and July 23rd. Village Creek hit 12 percent on June 17th and July 23rd. There were 14 "critical humidity nights", similar to the past two years. There were four such nights in mid-June. The 10-night average during the period was 83.3 percent.

PRECIPITATION: The 2004 season had three distinct wet periods. The first was in late May and early June, the second occurred in late August, and the third took place in mid-September. The period September 11-20 had nine days when at least half the RAWS recorded precipitation. Eight of the nine days had a median precipitation of at least one-tenth of an inch, and five days had a median value of 0.25 inches or more. There were four days in late August when the median precipitation was 0.25 inches or more.

The highest 24-hour amount was 2.92 inches at Abernathy on August 25th. South Fork recorded 2.51 inches on the same day. Wilkinson RAWS picked up 2.82 inches in a two-day period September 17th and 18th.

FUELS: The 2004 ERC values were quite low in May and June (generally 10 or less), and then hit a maximum in late July and early August. The highest 10-day average (August 11-20) was 40.5. Critical values (45 or higher) did not occur. The highest daily average was 44 on July 23rd. ERC values last September were in the lower 30s late in the month. This season, ERC values dropped into the teens in late August and continued to decline in September. The 100-hr fuel moisture values fell to 8-10 percent at the end of July. The lowest daily value was 8.8 on July 24th. A secondary minimum occurred in mid-August, when 100-hr moisture values dropped to 11 percent.

PORTLAND FIRE WEATHER – 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS FOR AREA THREE (SOUTH WASHINGTON CASCADES, NORTH OREGON CASCADES, AND FOOTHILLS)

This area is comprised of zones 605, 607 and 660. RAWS used to represent the area include:

Log Creek, Red Box Bench, Horse Creek, Eagle Creek, Blue Ridge, Elk Rock, Trout Lake, Canyon Creek, Stayton, Hamilton, and Wanderer's Peak.

	TEMPERATURE		RELATIVE HUMIDITY				FUELS		PRECIPITATION			LTG
			5 OR MORE RAWS MEET CRITERIA FOR 2 HOURS						MEDIAN VALUES			
DATE	AVE MAX	AVE MIN	AVE MIN	DAYS <26%	AVE RECOVERY	NIGHTS <61%	ERC	100 HR	DAYS ≥ .01	DAYS ≥ .10	DAYS ≥ 0.25	DAYS
May 1-10	59.4	43.1	50.0	0	79.8	2	8.8	14.1	6	4	2	3
11- 20	56.1	42.0	66.1	0	93.5	0	6.1	19.3	7	2	1	2
21- 31	56.6	43.0	70.7	0	95.8	1	5.8	21.3	8	7	4	2
June 1-10	**59.9**	**44.6**	**64.4**	**0**	**95.5**	**0**	**5.6**	**21.5**	**6**	**6**	**3**	**4**
11-20	**68.7**	**47.9**	**42.3**	**5**	**74.3**	**5**	**11.0**	**16.2**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**2**
21-30	**73.8**	**51.8**	**45.1**	**1**	**86.6**	**1**	**18.8**	**11.2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**2**
July 1-10	69.8	48.5	47.9	0	94.0	0	24.0	12.8	0	0	0	0
11-20	77.9	53.8	40.1	1	88.1	3	32.6	11.8	1	0	0	3
21-31	82.0	56.0	35.3	3	81.4	4	41.7	10.4	0	0	0	0
Aug 1-10	**77.9**	**54.3**	**41.4**	**2**	**83.7**	**3**	**37.6**	**12.7**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**3**
11-20	**83.8**	**58.5**	**37.5**	**1**	**83.8**	**2**	**44.0**	**10.7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**
21-31	**67.7**	**53.2**	**63.3**	**0**	**91.3**	**2**	**15.3**	**20.7**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**2**
Sept 1-10	67.1	49.8	54.4	0	89.0	1	15.0	15.7	2	1	0	1
11-20	57.2	45.3	71.9	0	97.4	0	6.1	23.3	9	8	5	2
21-30	68.8	48.6	50.7	0	86.6	2	5.9	19.2	1	0	0	0
Oct 1-10	**69.8**	**48.4**	**44.4**	**1**	**78.5**	**5**	**15.1**	**14.6**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**0**
11-20	**68.6**	**48.8**	**49.5**	**0**	**80.3**	**2**	**10.3**	**18.0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
AVE/TOT.	**68.5**	**49.3**	**51.5**	**14**	**87.0**	**33**	**17.9**	**16.1**	**57**	**37**	**22**	**28**
2003	70.1	48.7	46.9	27	84.7	25	32.2	13.5	33	23	13	15
2002	68.5	47.2	48.8	13	86.5	30	29.7	13.4	40	22	9	11
2001	66.1	46.9	55.7	4	89.0	23	NA	NA	42	23	25	7
2000	69	49	52	16	87	17	NA	NA	22	13	8	3
1999	68	48	52	15	82	22	NA	NA	36	18	7	10
1998	72	52	53	6	84	17	NA	NA	28	13	7	19
1997	69	51	61	1	89	13	NA	NA	37	27	17	11

DRY SPELL							
2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
53 DAYS	77 DAYS	70 DAYS	32 DAYS	44 DAYS	30 DAYS	83 DAYS	40 DAYS

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW: The most significant aspects for this area were the precipitation and lightning frequency, the fuel indices and the fairly short dry spell. There were 37 days when the median precipitation was at least one-tenth of an inch. This was the most, by far, since at least 1997. The dry spell was 53 days (June 14th through August 6th). Despite the rather wet season, there were 33 "critical humidity nights". Low fuel indices persisted through late July. Fuel indices sharply dropped off in late August due to significant rainfall. The average ERC value (17.9) was almost half the value of 2003 (32.2).

Lightning frequency was much higher compared to previous years. There were 28 days of lightning this season. However, most of the days occurred in May, June and early September, during periods of cold upper level lows.

TEMPERATURE: The warmest 10-day period occurred in mid-August (83.8 degrees). Another warm spell occurred July 21-31, with an average high of 82.0 degrees. Highs on July 23rd were in the upper 80s to 102. Stayton reached 102 degrees, Eagle Creek RAWS hit 100, Hamilton recorded 96, and Canyon Creek also had 96 degrees. Another hot day was August 11th. Hamilton observed 99 degrees and Log Creek had 95. The 10-day average high went from 83.8 August 11-20 to 67.7 August 21-31. Another cool, wet period was September 11-20 when the average high was 57.2 degrees.

HUMIDITY: There were 14 "critical daytime humidity" days during the season, compared to 27 in 2003. Critical daytime humidity was defined as at least five stations recording 25 percent or less humidity for at least two hours on any given day. The lowest reported humidity was 10 percent at Log Creek on June 20th. Blue Ridge had 12 percent on the same day, and Trout Lake observed 13 percent. The 33 "critical humidity nights" (defined as at least five stations recording 60 percent or lower humidity for two hours) were equally spaced through the season. There were five such nights in mid-June, and 10 others from mid-July to early August. The lowest 10-night average was 74.3 percent in the period June 11-20.

PRECIPITATION: Significant precipitation fell from May through early June and from late August mid-September. The period September 11-20 had nine days when median precipitation was at least one-tenth of an inch and five days when the median was 0.25 inches or more. The highest 24-hour amount was 3.69 inches at Hamilton on August 25th. This RAWS site had 9.15 inches of precipitation in three days (August 24th-26th). Log Creek had 3.09 inches on August 25th.

FUELS: The 2004 ERC values were quite low in May and early June (generally 10 or less), and then hit maximums in late July and mid-August. The highest 10-day average (August 11-20) was 44.0. Critical values (45 or higher) occurred on eight days. The highest daily average was 47.0 on July 24th, August 12th, and August 13th. However, ERC values went from 44 in mid-August to 15 at the end of August. Last year, September ERC values were near 30. The 2004 September values were as low as six.

PORTLAND FIRE WEATHER – 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS FOR AREA FOUR (CENTRAL CASCADES AND FOOTHILLS)

This area is comprised of zones 606 and 608. RAWS used to represent the area include:

Boulder Creek, Yellowstone, Hawley Butte, Trout Creek, Brush Creek, Pebble, Fields, and Emigrant.

	TEMPERATURE		RELATIVE HUMIDITY				FUELS		PRECIPITATION			LTG
			4 OR MORE RAWS MEET CRITERIA FOR 2 HOURS						MEDIAN VALUES			
DATE	AVE MAX	AVE MIN	AVE MIN	DAYS <26%	AVE RECOVERY	NIGHTS <61%	ERC	100 HR	DAYS ≥ .01	DAYS ≥ .10	DAYS ≥ 0.25	DAYS
May 1-10	61.5	42.6	49.1	1	89.3	2	10.7	14.3	3	2	1	1
11- 20	58.7	41.8	59.4	0	98.1	0	6.4	19.7	7	4	2	2
21- 31	60.1	42.5	61.7	0	95.9	0	6.0	18.7	6	4	4	2
June 1-10	**61.6**	**43.8**	**61.0**	**1**	**97.0**	**0**	**4.1**	**20.8**	**6**	**5**	**5**	**1**
11-20	**71.9**	**47.9**	**36.9**	**5**	**74.0**	**5**	**10.6**	**14.2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**
21-30	**76.2**	**50.8**	**40.4**	**1**	**86.4**	**1**	**22.8**	**10.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**
July 1-10	75.3	48.4	36.9	0	91.0	0	32.3	11.2	0	0	0	0
11-20	81.2	52.7	34.0	1	88.0	1	38.7	10.9	1	0	0	4
21-31	86.3	56.1	28.9	3	76.2	6	50.0	8.9	0	0	0	0
Aug 1-10	**81.6**	**54.0**	**36.0**	**3**	**83.3**	**3**	**46.1**	**11.3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**
11-20	**87.2**	**57.7**	**30.0**	**1**	**76.6**	**4**	**53.2**	**9.0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**
21-31	**70.9**	**53.1**	**58.3**	**1**	**89.9**	**2**	**23.8**	**17.7**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**1**
Sept 1-10	70.8	49.9	49.7	0	87.6	2	26.2	14.3	1	0	0	1
11-20	60.7	45.5	65.3	0	96.5	0	12.0	20.6	10	6	5	2
21-30	70.3	47.6	49.8	0	90.1	0	12.9	18.2	0	0	0	1
Oct 1-10	**72.6**	**48.6**	**41.4**	**2**	**80.9**	**2**	**20.8**	**14.6**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**
11-20	**73.3**	**49.2**	**36.4**	**0**	**70.1**	**2**	**19.9**	**16.4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
AVE/TOT.	**71.8**	**49.0**	**45.6**	**19**	**86.5**	**30**	**23.3**	**14.8**	**43**	**26**	**20**	**24**
2003	73.4	49.0	42.3	43	83.5	29	38.8	12.2	30	19	6	17
2002	72.4	47.4	40.7	29	84.6	43	37.5	12.2	30	14	9	13
2001	73.5	47.8	38.0	36	83.5	40	NA	NA	35	29	12	11
2000	75	50	42	21	85	13	NA	NA	19	12	6	7
1999	73	50	43	15	81	18	NA	NA	34	12	4	9
1998	76	53	48	5	85	14	NA	NA	19	7	5	18
1997	74	52	51	5	89	10	NA	NA	34	25	14	12

DRY SPELL							
2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
73 DAYS	67 DAYS	51 DAYS	22 DAYS	57 DAYS	34 DAYS	83 DAYS	41 DAYS

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW: The most significant aspects for this area were the lack of critical humidity days, low seasonal average fuel indices, and abundance of precipitation. There were 26 days when the median precipitation was at least one-tenth of an inch. This was the most since 2001 (29 days). However, the 20 days of 0.25 inches or more were the most since at least 1997. The dry spell was 73 days (June 10th through August 21st). This was actually a little longer than 2003 (67 days), and was the longest since 1998. There were 19 critical humidity days, much less than last year (43). Fuel indices at the beginning of the season (early June) were much lower this year compared to 2003. Fuels had a short-lived peak from late July through mid-August then lowered dramatically. The seasonal average ERC was only 23.3, compared to 38.8 last year.

Lightning frequency was a little higher compared to previous years. There were 24 days of lightning this season, evenly distributed throughout the season.

TEMPERATURE: The warmest 10-day period occurred in mid-August (87.2 degrees). Another warm spell occurred July 21-31, with an average high of 86.3 degrees. The highest temperature for this area was 101 at Trout Creek on July 23rd. Surprisingly, Emigrant RAWS did not record a single day of at least 100 degrees. The highest was 99 on July 23rd, and 98 on August 8th. Fields hit 97 degrees on July 23rd. As was the case in the North Cascades and foothills, the 10-day average high showed a big drop in late August. The 10-day average fell from 87.2 to 70.9 degrees. Another cool, wet period was September 11-20 when the average high was just 60.7 degrees, compared to 81.9 during the same time in 2003.

HUMIDITY: There were 19 "critical daytime humidity" days during the season, compared to 43 in 2003. Critical daytime humidity was defined as at least four stations recording 25 percent or less humidity for at least two hours on any given day. The lowest reported humidity was nine percent at Yellowstone and Emigrant on June 16th and 17th, respectively. Emigrant recorded 10 percent on July 26th and August 8th. Fields had 11 percent on June 17th. The 30 "critical humidity nights" (defined as at least four stations recording 60 percent or lower humidity for two hours) were concentrated in mid-June and from late July through mid-August. Brush Creek had nighttime humidity of 18 percent on June 17th, and 21 percent on the 18th. Yellowstone observed 18 percent the night of October 14th and 20 percent on September 6th. The lowest 10-night average was 74.0 percent during the period June 11-20.

PRECIPITATION: This area did not receive nearly as much rainfall in late August as the other regions. However, there were four days when the median precipitation was at least one-tenth of an inch (August 21-31), and three days of at least 0.25 inches. The wettest period was actually early June. The highest 24-hour amount was 2.36 inches August 22nd at Boulder Creek RAWS. Yellowstone observed 2.18 inches on the same day. Trout Creek had 2.20 inches on May 27th.

FUELS: The 2004 ERC values were quite low in May and early June (generally 10 or less), and then peaked in July and mid-August. The highest 10-day average (July 21-31) was 50.0. Critical values (50 or higher) occurred on 20 days. The highest daily average was 56.2 on July 28th. ERC values went from 53.2 in mid-August to 23.8 at the end of August. The lowest 10-day 100-hr fuel moisture average was 8.9 in late July. The lowest daily average was 7.1 on July 24th. A daily average of 7-8 was noted July 23rd through the 29th.